



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THREE ARRESTED FOR MAIL FRAUD IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SCHEME**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today the arrests of 55-year-old Irma M. Richie, a former Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) employee, her daughter, 35-year-old Mary A. Richie and son-in-law 35-year-old David Murillo charged in connection with a scheme to defraud TWC of approximately \$167,000.

A Federal grand jury on Wednesday returned a nine-count indictment against the defendants. The indictment alleges that from June 1997, to April 2001, the defendants conspired to commit mail fraud by submitting false unemployment insurance claims to TWC. Irma Richie was employed by TWC during the alleged conspiracy. The defendants used the TWC's TeleServ system to submit fraudulent claims for payment. TWC mailed payment checks to the defendants based upon the fraudulent information.

Upon conviction of all charges, Irma and Mary Richie each face up to 20 years in federal prison; David Murillo, 15 years in federal prison.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and Texas Workforce Commission. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Moore is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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